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## Preface

The Second St. Petersburg Days of Logic and Computability conference was held on August 24 to 26, 2003, in St. Petersburg, Russia. It was organized by the Steklov Institute of Mathematics at St. Petersburg on the occasion of the centennial of an eminent mathematician, Andrey Andreievich Markov, Jr.

A.A. Markov began as a topologist, but he later switched to the study of fundamental problems in the foundations of mathematics. He established (simultaneously with and independently of Emil Post) the undecidability of the so-called *Thue problem* (the word problem for finitely presented semigroups), which was the very first example of an unsolvable decision problem in mainstream mathematics. A.A. Markov was the founder of what became known worldwide as the “Russian constructivist school”. Whereas in terms of logical principles the constructivist approach resembles intuitionism, its foundational background is quite different since constructivism is based primarily on the well-defined notion of algorithm within traditional mathematics.

A complete list of publications and more biographical data for A.A. Markov can be found on the WWW site <http://logic.pdmi.ras.ru/Markov>.

The conference was attended by more than 60 scientists. The program and abstracts of all talks, as well as pictures taken during the meeting, can be found at <http://logic.pdmi.ras.ru/2ndDays>.

The present volume contains full versions of selected papers presented at the meeting.

Information about The First St. Petersburg Days of Logic and Computability can be found at <http://logic.pdmi.ras.ru/LogicDays>; selected papers of that meeting were published as Volume 113 of this Journal.

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